

## R. F. & P. TO VOTE ON COMPROMISE

Stockholders Will Decide Wednesday on Acceptance of Agreement.

### AUDITOR IS STILL IN WAY

May Prevent Payment of Sum to State and Counties, With Surrender of Exemption.

Stockholders of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company will be called upon, at a general meeting to be held Wednesday morning of this week at 11 o'clock in the offices of the company, in the First National Bank Building, to ratify or reject the compromise proposed with the Commonwealth of Virginia in the tax controversy, which has been pending for years.

Should the action of the stockholders be affirmative, the proposition offered upon between the committee of the board of directors on the one hand, and the special commission representing the State on the other, the sum of \$165,544.82, in lieu of all franchise and property tax claims to and including the year 1912, and to further pay the sum of \$1,000,000 to the State, counties and towns through which it runs. It must, further, surrender forever all exemption from taxation it has heretofore enjoyed, and give up every nonrepealable feature of its charter, and must agree to secure such amendments to its articles of incorporation as will put it on a par with all the other railroads of the State, being relieved of its special burdens and surrendering its special privileges.

**Suit Might Go On.** On the other hand, should the stockholders take the unexpected action of rejecting the compromise, the suit for payment of the accrued taxes, now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, will be prosecuted to a final decision, which may be reached within two years. The amount claimed by the State is nearly twice that agreed to be paid by the railroad, and, besides, no penalty nor interest is included in the compromise. The Commonwealth will refuse to accept any sum by the State which is less than the amount really due to it. In accepting less than half the total of taxes, penalty and interest, the Auditor thinks, the Constitution is violated.

**Auditor May Block Game.** By his declaration to recognize the validity of the compromise, it is supposed Auditor Moore will refuse to accept the railroad's checks when they are tendered him, and will not allow them to be covered into the Treasury. In this event the special commission is likely to take some action, perhaps to ask for a writ of mandamus to compel him to accept the money. Such proceeding would, no doubt, be contested to a final adjudication, and the matter may hang in the courts some time. On the Auditor may reconsider and decide to receive the payment.

The localities traversed by the railroad seem generally pleased with the compromise, since it insures their receiving five years arrears of property taxes, and further means that they will regularly reap the harvest hereafter. Sums which are large to the localities are involved in the compromise, the amount of \$173,422.35 going to the political subdivision by the terms of the agreement is divided as follows: city of Richmond, \$57,591.67; Brookland District, Henrico County, \$11,451.9; Tuckerhoe District, Henrico County, \$1,634.83; Ashland District, Hanover County, \$8,975.89; Beaver Dam District, Hanover County, \$4,994.71; town of Ashland, \$3,547.16; Reddy Church District, Charlotte County, \$12,595.21; Bowling Green District, Caroline County, \$8,815; Port Royal District, Caroline County, \$8,997.51; Courtland District, Spotsylvania County, \$12,348.15; city of Fredericksburg, \$4,529.88; Fairfax District, Stafford County, \$19,523.55; Aquia District, Stafford County, \$25,817.65; Prince William County, \$573.12.

### WANTS VIRGINIA EXHIBITS

**San Diego Sends Virginian to Speak for Its Exposition.** Robert H. Slaughter, president of the Society of the Virginian in San Diego, Cal., is on his way to the East to spread the news of the San Diego Panama-California International Exposition, which opens on January 15, 1915. His mission in particular is to appear before legislative and congressional bodies in Virginia and West Virginia in an effort to secure from them inducements for Virginia exhibits at the exposition.

The San Diego show will be independent of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, which will be held in San Francisco in 1915 to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal. It will be the first open-all-the-year exposition in history, continuing 365 days from January 1, 1915, to December 31, 1915. Slaughter feels confident that the Virginian will be represented here this year, and Mr. Slaughter on the eve of his departure. "The settlement of Jamestown in 1607 was the first step toward white civilization on the Eastern coast, and the settlement of San Diego in 1769 marked the beginning of white settlement in California. There ought to be a warm bond of friendship between the Virginians and Californians."

**Council Meets To-Night.** The Common Council will meet to-night at 8 o'clock in regular monthly session. Besides the usual committee docket, there will be a large number of papers from the Administrative Board for consideration.

**Speakers From Afar.** Local committees in charge of preparations for the fourth biennial convention of the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States, which will convene in Richmond April 15, announce among the features of the meeting a number of addresses by association workers in foreign lands. These will come to the convention from far a cross the seas to bring their particular messages to their American sisters.

Miss Ruth Rouse, of London, traveling secretary among women students for the World's Student Christian Federation, will make an address on the subject "The Life of Students in Other Lands"—one of a series of addresses designed to portray the student life of women in all quarters of the globe. Among other speakers from England will be Miss Fletton-Turberville, of London, head of the foreign department of the Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain and Ireland, and Miss Christa Spencer, also of London, general secretary of the World's Association.

**Savings Bank of Richmond.** Money in bank draws interest while there and can be had when wanted. One dollar starts you.

**UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY FOR POSTAL SAVINGS FUNDS**

## GROUNDHOG DUCKS AGAIN AS HE SEES HATED SHADOW

And This Means Forty Days of Cold, With Snow and Sleet Galore, for Poor Man's Prophet Wisely Tells You So.

If the ground hog as a weather prophet is without honor in learned society, he has nevertheless a larger following than most of the paid forecasters in the employ of Uncle Sam. He differs from these in the fact that he issues no isothermic maps to bolster his predictions, cares nothing for areas of low pressure, and is independent of the telegraphic wire. With no landlines like these to deflect his observations, he seldom goes wrong.

At the noon hour yesterday, standard Washington time, he crawled sleepily out of his burrow and stood up on his hind legs to make his annual observation. He pointed his snout toward the magnetic pole and sniffed the air. It smelled of icebergs and wet rain. Then he faced south to the Gulf, but the wind from the isthmus was unborn.

There was still one unfailing test, and he made it. As always, he did it with fear and trembling. He fixed his starboard eye upon the exact center of the heavens and shifted the other apprehensively to the ground behind him. There lay the black outline of his form projected by the noon-day sun. It was the hated shadow that ground hogs are taught from infancy to fear. He doubled upon his tracks and went down into his burrow to sleep.

Thousands of citizens in Henrico County watched the performance and blinked gloomily with the ground hog at the noonday sun. It was an evil omen. It meant forty more days of winter and plenty of rain and sleet. The ground hog smelled it coming and promptly went below to wrap the sun in a sense of gratitude to the keen-smelling ground hog that comes once a year on February 2, to set at rest all doubts about coming summer. Why should the Weather Bureau grow arrogant? The ground hog squints at the sun and never fails. He spreads conviction because he believes in his predictions himself.

**Johnston Company Sustains About \$7,000 Damage in Early Morning Blaze.**

Damage estimated at more than \$7,000, fully covered by insurance, was done by an early morning fire yesterday to the plant, stock and equipment of the Johnston Box Company, Inc., 2502 Venable Street. Flames were discovered shortly before 4 o'clock in the rear of the building by a policeman, who ran to Box No. 21, Twenty-fifth and Venable Streets, and sounded a general alarm. The blaze had gained considerable headway when apparatus in charge of Assistant Chief Ruffo arrived, and a second alarm was turned in, bringing additional engine companies and Chief Joyner. For a few minutes the firemen had a stiff fight, but the fire was shortly under control and completely extinguished. Chief Joyner said he was unable to ascertain just what started the fire, but learned that it caught at the foot of a stairway in the rear.

Robert H. Stoltz, secretary-treasurer of the company, said last night that he had not found out the exact loss, but thought it might reach \$7,000. He added that it was fully covered by insurance. "While fire did considerable damage," Mr. Stoltz stated, "I think that more was done by water, which ruined a large quantity of paper stock."

## CLOCK TO CHECK USE OF CURRENT

Street Cars Equipped With New Device, Which Shows How They Coast.

Carrying out modern ideas of efficiency, the Virginia Railway and Power Company is having its air-brake cars equipped with a clock work device which will measure the amount of time on each trip that the car is coasting or running free of current, and also the amount of time that the brakes are on. Use of the device, it is believed, will enable the company to check up its men as to their use or waste of current. Railway systems long ago adopted report plans for checking up their engineers and firemen as to the amount of coal burned, but it is only recently that the principle has been adapted for electric lines. "Immediate use of current, the company says, is after all, a direct waste of it, as a considerable part of the current used in street car transportation is generated by electricity which is lost in the form of heat. The clock work device is a simple clock-work mechanism attached to the air-brake. It has been in use for some months on the Richmond-Petersburg interurban cars, and has been very efficiently used by a number of cities. The clock records the amount of time the car is coasting or running free without current, and also the time the air-brakes are in use, which will include all stops.

Although in use but a few days as yet, it is stated that some of the motormen have made excellent records, keeping their schedule with the minimum use of electric current. The general average of coasting time has been about 10 per cent. One motorman, it is stated, has made a round trip of one hour and ten minutes with his car running free of current for thirty minutes, his route being one that gave him great advantage because of the hills. The principle of the efficiency system is to avoid all lost motion, securing the maximum of results from a given outlay of energy. Besides effecting a considerable saving in current, it is believed the new device will enable the company to keep close check on the efficiency and skill of its motormen.

### SPEAKERS FROM AFAR

Y. W. C. A. Convention Will Hear Addresses by London Women.

Local committees in charge of preparations for the fourth biennial convention of the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States, which will convene in Richmond April 15, announce among the features of the meeting a number of addresses by association workers in foreign lands. These will come to the convention from far a cross the seas to bring their particular messages to their American sisters.

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## MUCH CRITICISM OF RICHMOND JAIL

Building Not Up to Modern Standards, and Has Worst Possible Location.

### CHARITIES BOARD REPORTS

Suggests Richmond Should Make Start Towards Rational Treatment of Defectives.

According to the annual report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, just issued, those who located the Richmond City Jail apparently had not a single modern corrective or reformatory idea in their minds. If they had such idea, the board believes there could have been found within the limits of the city no more inappropriate place in which to develop it.

The report, as presented by Secretary J. T. Mastin, is entitled "Social Service in Virginia." It is a book of 114 pages, filled with interesting statistics and comment on charity and correctional work in Virginia. As the work of the board becomes more organized, the annual reports are more comprehensive. A vast deal of information indispensable to social workers is arrived.

On the subject of Richmond's almshouse and jail, that report reads as follows: "Being largely along the lines suggested by the report of the visiting committee, as printed in The Times-Dispatch some time since:

**Report on City Home.** "As regards the City Home, the committee feels that its best function at this time is: "1. To commend the movement now on foot to move the tuberculosis patients in the City Home out into the country to be cared for under modern conditions. This is a paramount need. "2. To emphasize the great necessity for a modern city hospital for general medical and surgical cases, for with the present equipment the work of caring for the sick city poor is greatly hampered. We are gratified that the Council committee recognizes this need, and we earnestly urge that there be no unnecessary delay in settling this important matter.

"The spirit in which the inmates of the City Home are now being looked after by the present management is deserving of all praise. There only remains for the city now to do its full part.

**Undesirable Location.** "City Jail.—At the outset, comment on the location of the City Jail is distinctly in order. Down in a deep ravine, it is surrounded on the southwest by a long line of new stables, on the northeast by the city incinerator, with its accompanying odors; on the east by the open sewer known as Shockoe Creek; on the south by a lot of shabby mellow with aged on the southwest and west by an undesirable neighborhood, and above, shutting out the light and air of heaven, is the Marshall Street viaduct, with its rumbling cars. Every artificial external condition conceivable is present to make the setting of the jail of Richmond a place of punishment 'par excellence.' If, however, there be a single modern corrective or reformatory idea in the minds of those responsible for its situation, it could be within the limits be found no more inappropriate place in which to develop it.

"So much for the site. The jail itself is not modern. Judges by jail standards and no one else, Richmond, if it must have a jail, should at least have an up-to-date one. The new portion of the State Penitentiary furnishes a fine model right at hand, inviting imitation.

"The care of the jail and its abled inmates is perhaps all that could be expected under the present system, in the present location and with the present equipment. The jail is well managed and clean. The character of the food is good and its quantity sufficient."

The hospital was found well equipped to be thoroughly examined physically by a physician when admitted. It is suggested that every prisoner would help in treating diseases in the prison, prevent their spread, and, besides, would be of value in determining the extent in which mental or physical disability is responsible for crime.

**Some Recommendations.** After a discussion of medical needs, the report concludes: "It is impossible to cure tuberculosis except by early diagnosis and removal from the dark, damp, unwholesome environment in which it breeds. It is likewise equally preposterous to expect the social disease we call crime to be cured unless the patient be intelligently studied and removed from evil surroundings, which are usually the largest causative factor.

"The Legislature at its last session removed the only serious impediment to proper treatment of Richmond prisoners, and your committee feels that it can do no greater service than to assert with all the emphasis possible that the jail prisoners of Richmond should be removed to a farm, and there made to work in the open air.

"If Minneapolis, with a daily average of 120 men and twenty-two women can save the municipality \$150,000 yearly with her workhouse, surely Richmond, with her daily average of 175 men and thirty women, should at least make a start towards dealing rationally with her delinquents."

**Wanted as Detainer.** R. L. Batine, formerly of Richmond, is now being sought by the police at the request of the Navy Department, it being alleged that he deserted from the service.

**Always Pay As You Go.** Said an old man to his nephew. "But, uncle, suppose I have nothing to pay with?" "Then, DON'T GO," replied the uncle wisely.

This is sage advice which we want to see young people follow to their personal gain in the development of those qualities through which success is attained. No matter how small YOUR income is, live WITHIN it. Write your checks on the

**American National Bank** of Richmond, Virginia,

and

**PAY AS YOU GO.**

## COUNCIL MAY FIX ROLE FOR PAVING

Finance Committee Likely to Designate Streets to Be Attended to First.

### MERCHANTS ARE ANXIOUS

Want Fund to Continue Broad Street Paving Made Separate Item.

For three nights this week the Council Committee on Finance will hear from various branches of the city government in regard to their financial needs in connection with preparation of the annual appropriation ordinance. The Fire and Police Departments will be heard to-morrow night at 8 o'clock. The School and Health Boards will be heard on Wednesday, and opportunity will also be given on that night for brief statements from the public charities which receive city aid, and from any outsiders desiring to be heard in connection with the budget. On Thursday night the committee will hear in turn the departments grouped under supervision of the Administrative Board, beginning with the City Engineer. Members of the Administrative Board have been invited to sit with the Finance Committee at all three hearings, in order that they may be familiar with the financial situation.

**Will Hurry It Forward.** If the public hearings are concluded this week, it is anticipated that the budget committee can complete its work in another week, and that the ordinance can be reported to a special meeting of the Council soon after the middle of the month. For many reasons it is urged that the budget be adopted at the earliest possible time, so that plans may be prepared and contracts awarded for public work in the spring, and not let the work hang over into the fall and winter as has been the custom heretofore.

Since this will be the first budget made up under the new charter amendments, creating the Administrative Board, there is some discussion as to procedure. The charter says that the fairly anticipated revenues of the city are to be apportioned to the various departments in lump sums. For some years past the Finance Committee has been endeavoring to separate pay roll accounts from expense items, and to separate from mere current running expenses all items that are in the nature of an investment or permanent improvement. This policy will be continued, the pay roll and expense items being made separate from any provision for permanent improvement.

In connection with the improvement items, there is some difference of opinion whether the Finance Committee should clearly specify in the budget where and how the funds are to be expended, or whether this should be left to the Administrative Board to determine. For instance, some members believe there should be a large lump sum appropriation for streets, leaving to the Administrative Board to determine what, if any, of the general fund should be used to continue the Broad Street paving and what amount should be used for smooth paving and where it shall be placed.

Some members of the committee are said to favor continuation of the policy of recent years of specifying in special items all smooth paving, leaving the fund for streets generally to be used for grading, graveling and granite spall paving, curbs and gutters, oiling and bituminous macadam. This plan was adopted some years ago to check a growing abuse of scattering single blocks of smooth paving about, with no connected plan of continuous improvement. With almost impassable conditions in the outlying sections, many Councilmen do not believe that any part of the general street fund should be diverted to smooth paving.

Merchants generally are anxious to have the continuation of the Broad Street paving made a special item that purpose alone, and which cannot be diverted if left to come out of the general street fund, the merchants believe that, with the other strong demands that will be made, the Administrative Board will give Broad Street much less than the \$100,000 asked for paving blocks west of Third Street. It is also considered important that the unexpended balance of last year's appropriation for Broad Street, which has reverted to the city, be reappropriated of \$50,000 for the work this year would be subject to the bills for completion of the old contract, and would mean that the street paving would not be carried as far west as Jefferson Street this year.

**Seek Runaway Here.** The local police have been asked to look for Argo Armistead, fifteen years old, who is said to have run away from his home in Bluefield, W. Va., and come to Richmond.

**Expenses Grow More Rapidly.** Because the expenses of operation have increased more rapidly than the earnings, the statement of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway for the month of December, issued yesterday, shows an actual decrease in the net operating revenue. Freight revenue for the month amounted to \$221,769.65, passenger revenue to \$488,723.98, and the total operating revenues to \$700,493.63, an increase over the same month last year of \$141,711.57, or 5 per cent.

Operating expenses amounted to \$2,092,448.40, an increase over the same last year of \$275,223.61, or 15 per cent. The net operating revenue for the month was \$884,552.17, a decrease of \$123,512.24, or 13 per cent.

For the first six months of the fiscal year, from July 1 to December 31, the total operating revenues of the system were \$17,964,631.73, an increase of \$880,716.70. The total operating expenses were \$12,068,399.10, an increase of \$988,474.91, leaving the net operating revenue for the first half of the fiscal year \$5,896,232.62, a decrease from the same preceding period of \$102,969.21, or 2 per cent.

**More Than Offset Increased Revenues of Chesapeake and Ohio Lines.**

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## TRACE CRIME BACK TO CORN-SHUCKING KISS

This is the story of a little mountain girl, in love with a man who stands in the shadow of death. Parts of it have been told, but most of it will never be written. It has for its setting a wild and rugged country, and for its characters a primitive people. The story is tinted with the red of a tragedy that is an old tale, and hinges for its fateful climax upon the stroke of a pen in the hands of Virginia's Governor.

Miss Nellie Wissler—one has only to see her to know—belongs not to the type of newspaper heroine that somehow springs into life in the chronicle of every big national crime. She shrinks from the gaze of the thousands who regard her as an interesting link in the fate of the Alleghenies. She speaks slowly, with the halting speech peculiar to the mountain country, and she seldom smiles. When she does, there is a decidedly attractive dimple in her cheek.

Seated by the railing on the mezzanine floor of the Richmond Hotel, a slight figure, dressed in deepest mourning, she impressed one as mournfully pale and fragile. Reporters have been part of her daily life for weeks and months, and she regarded the intrusion of the latest one with little more than indifference.

**Unshaken Faith in Claude.** If she looked upon the intruder with indifference at first, the manner soon left her. From a halting exchange of views on the latest appeal to the Governor, and formal talk about the case in general, the conversation proceeded by easy stages to the life in the Carroll County hills before the coming of the big shadow.

Here again there was little new to tell. The story of the Alleghenies is a twice-told tale. For nine months and more—since the ill-starred day last March, when the single strand of wire running out of the little mountain hamlet began sending to a startled nation the broken account of the Hillville horror—the public searchlight has played incessantly upon the clansmen, and the country's cleverest writers have seen to it that nothing was left untold.

To Miss Wissler—Nellie Wissler, playmate, school-fellow, sweetheart of Claude—these news-writers, clever as they are, have never once told the tale as it should have been told. None of them knew Claude, as she knew him. All of their accounts have been biased. She related incident after incident of the young clansman's early life, his generous nature, his devotion to her, his fortuitous presence in Hillville on the morning of the tragedy.

"Why, Claude," she caught her breath as she said it, and gazed wistfully for a sign of sympathy. "Claude could not do murder. I have known him ever since I can remember. We were raised within a half-mile of each other. He is not that kind of a boy. But nobody, nobody believes me, and now—now he's here, and—oh, it's unbelievable." She turned aside while the reporter waited.

**Started at Corn-Shucking.** One hitherto untold chapter of the incidents which led up to the court-house shooting, Claude Wissler related. She thought everybody knew it long ago, and was surprised when she was told that the papers had not printed it.

About three weeks before the court-house tragedy, the Carroll County neighborhood gathered at a corn-shucking, which attracted all the young people of the countryside. Among others, there were present Wesley Edwards and a youth named Will Thomas. Corn-shuckings, as every one who has lived in the country knows, affords young love opportunity to try its wings, and this one was no exception.

It appears from Miss Wissler's account, that Wesley Edwards contrived during the evening to win to his favor the girl who had accompanied Will Thomas to the shucking. He did this, it was charged by surreptitiously bringing to the party a number of red ears of corn, each one of which entitled him to a kiss from the girl he thought the prettiest.

**Fought at Church.** Finding himself desired by his fair companion, Thomas, it is said, who possesses considerable powers of mimicry, began to mock Wesley Edwards's gait and manner of speech, with the result that Edwards promised the night to get even with him. The feud was renewed a week later at a box supper in the neighborhood school-house.

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house, but trouble was staved off by the interference of Claude Allen and others, who separated the rivals. On the Sunday morning following the box party, Thomas and Edwards mixed in combat at the entrance to the schoolhouse, where divine services were in progress. A warrant for their arrest, as well as for the arrest of Sidney Edwards, who had taken a hand, followed the next day, and the Edwards boys crossed the border into North Carolina.

Their capture a few days later began the train of events which culminated in the Hillville tragedy. Floyd Allen, kinsman of the two boys, while on a visit to Sidney Allen, saw two deputy sheriffs taking Sidney and Wesley to jail in hand-cuffs, and his wrath rose. He freed them from their captors, and was later arrested and tried for interfering with officers in the discharge of their duty. The rest is history.

**Hoping Against Hope.** During the recital of this episode, Miss Wissler forgot for the moment the shadow which hovered over her young life, and permitted herself even to smile at the ludicrous happenings of the corn-shucking. It was only for a moment. She grew silent and rested her head in her hand.

"I don't know how long I shall be here—probably a few days," she replied in answer to the query. It was clear that she was thinking of the governor who held the fate of her lover in his hand. She held out her hand hopefully as the reporter went away.

"I hope you will say something good about Claude," she said. "I know what newspapers can do. Some have been so kind, and some have hurt him so much."

"Newspapers are made by human beings and have human failings and human virtues, just like folks themselves," she was told.

"I know that, and I'm still hoping," she replied.

**Dr. Freeman to Speak.** Dr. Douglas Freeman will speak to-night at 8 o'clock before the Woman's Temperance League of America, at headquarters, 15 South Third Street, on the subject, "The Effect of Alcohol on Heredity." The public is invited.

**Inspecting Militia.** Adjutant-General W. W. Sale and Captain J. K. Partello went last evening to Staunton, where the third week of United States inspections of the Virginia Volunteers will begin to-day. The officers will be absent until Saturday.

**Paragraph Pulpit Incarnation.** The old theology taught the incarnation—that there was, some nineteen centuries ago, a man in whom dwelt the presence of God—that in him the "Word became flesh." The new theology also declares this doctrine, but it insists that it is broader than the former teachers declared. That not in one man alone has there dwelt the presence of God, but in many men—yes, that in every man there is the spark of Divinity. That whenever and wherever the soul of man comes into harmony with God, that soul may declare, "I and my Father are one."—Unitarian Publication Committee.—Advertisement.

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